

<b>Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy &amp; Procedure</b>			
<b>Escort – Secure Areas</b>			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 2px 5px;">Effective: July 2014</td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 2px 5px;">Revised: October 2022</td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 2px 5px;">Due for Review: October 2024</td> </tr> </table>	Effective: July 2014	Revised: October 2022	Due for Review: October 2024
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## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) to provide a safe and secure environment including escort to and from the secure treatment areas within the facility. VPCH personnel shall maintain supervision when escorting hospitalized persons to the secure treatment areas of the VPCH facility. In all instances, VPCH personnel shall ensure that hospitalized persons are escorted in the least restrictive and most dignified manner possible.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Escort: For the purposes of this policy, *escort* shall refer to the accompaniment and direct supervision of hospitalized persons when accessing secure, off-unit areas of the hospital.

Secure: For the purposes of this policy, *secure* shall refer to areas of the hospital outside of the care units in which an individual's mobility is limited by badge/key access and/or exit points.

## **PROCEDURE**

A provider order must be written prior to any hospitalized person leaving a unit. Treatment teams will regularly review the clinical appropriateness of off-unit activities and order a level of autonomy consistent with this review.

Personnel are assigned to escort persons hospitalized to and from the secure areas of the hospital. An assigned Nurse, in collaboration with assigned escorting personnel, shall conduct a clinical safety assessment prior to hospitalized persons leaving the care units. The purpose of this evaluation is to ensure that the circumstances are consistent with hospitalized persons' current treatment plan and physician's order related to level of autonomy. The Nurses initials on the Precaution Monitoring sheet will signify the completion of this assessment.


Personnel providing escort will complete an environmental safety sweep of the area(s) identified prior to the initiation of the escort.

The assigned Nurse, in conjunction with the personnel assigned to escort, will determine an appropriate personnel ratio to meet care and safety needs for the duration of the escort. The assigned Nurse and escorting personnel will determine if an announcement of the escort needs to be made over the two-way radio (*i.e.* an escort to an area not typically accessed by hospitalized persons such as the lobby or the Admissions area).

Personnel providing escort shall carry a two-way radio so that additional personnel can be notified of and respond to situations requiring additional support.

Personnel providing escort will monitor hospitalized persons via direct visual observation. Assigned personnel escorting hospitalized persons are ultimately responsible for ensuring safety during the escort.

Personnel escorting the hospitalized person back onto the unit when the escort is complete will communicate with the assigned Nurse to inform them of any clinically significant events from their time off unit.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes Commissioner Vermont Department of Mental Health	 C50275615A62462...	10/11/2022